

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the non-final Office Action of August 14, 2009, indicating allowance or allowability of claims 4-7, 12-14, and 18-29, claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice in order to permit this application to pass to issue. Moreover, claim 18 has been placed in independent and thus allowed form.

Claims 22-24, persistently dependent upon allowable claim 18 but previously withdrawn, are to be herewith reinstated as previously submitted and no longer withdrawn. Since grounds for maintaining the withdrawal of claims 22-24 no longer exist, it is therefore submitted that claims 22-24 are also allowable at least for the reasons stated in support of the allowance of claim 18 and thus should pass to issue.

Claim 30 has been amended to depend from claim 18. Claim 30, previously dependent upon claim 1, was previously submitted but was not noted in the last office action, although it was clearly previously submitted and entered as part of the Request for Continued Examination. It is therefore submitted that claim 30 is also allowable at least for the reasons stated in support of the allowance of claim 18 and thus should pass to issue.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Appln. No. 10/713,777
Amdt. dated November 9, 2009
Reply to Office Action of August 14, 2009

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at (650) 326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth R. Allen". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kenneth R. Allen
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